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D STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an 10/766,969 Serial No.: envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA Conf. No.: 4322 22313-1450, on this date. Filed: 1/28/2004 METHOD OF AND APPARATUS... Date For: Attorney for Applicant(s) F-CLASS.WCM Appr. February 20, 1998 Art Unit: 2133 Examiner: Alphonse, Fritz

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), after the C.F.R. §1.97(b) time period, but before the mail date of a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance (whichever occurs first), with <u>either</u>:

- (a) a statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e); or
- (b) the \$180.00 fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of foreign patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

- (X) Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e):
 - (X) The enclosed references were cited in a Communication issued by the **Japanese** Patent Office (copy enclosed with English translation). Applicant(s) hereby certify that each item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
 - () Applicant(s) hereby certify that no item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing below after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- () Enclosed is a check for \$180.00 to cover the fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

May 17, 2007 300 South Wacker Drive Suite 2500 Chicago, Illinois 60606 Telephone: (312) 360-0080 Facsimile: (312) 360-9315

Customer Number 24978

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD

By: Joseph P. Fox Reg. No. 41,760

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Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce (Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office				Attorney Docket No.: 192	Serial No.: 10/766,969			
(Rev. 8-88	,		1 1 2007 2007	Applicant: Kazuhito Ichih	nara			
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITA (Use several sheets if necessary)		MAY 2 2 2007		Filing Date: 01/28/2004		Group: 2133		
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Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date		Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate	
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	WO 97/11544	Mar. 27, 1997	WIPO			†	Х	
	2000-196469	Jul. 14, 2000	Japan				Partial	
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